

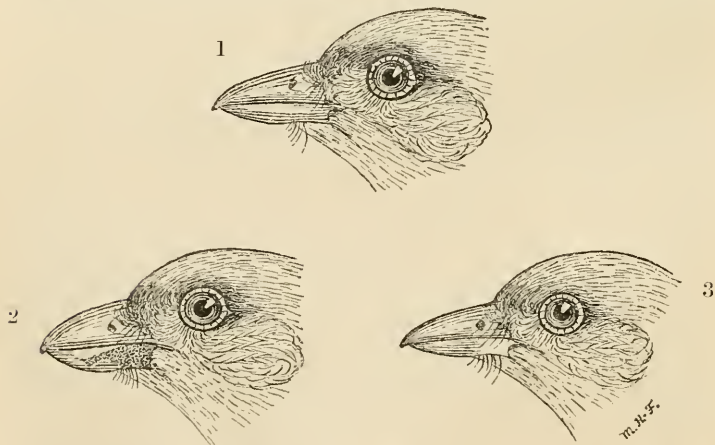
In conclusion, I must not omit to mention that the scientific names of the birds mentioned above have been supplied to me by my father, who has also been most kind in helping me to put together these few notes.

XXXIII.—*Remarks on the Species of the Genus Cyclorhis.*

By P. L. SCLATER.

(Plate X.)

HAVING been obliged during the preparation of the first volume of 'Argentine Ornithology' to come to some conclusions as to the correct names of the two Argentine species of *Cyclorhis*, I have been led to examine carefully the series of specimens of this genus in the National Collection, which, since they were catalogued by Dr. Gadow (Cat. B. viii. pp. 316 *et seqq.*) in 1883, have received considerable additions from the collection of Messrs. Salvin and Godman and my own. As, with the aid of this increased number of specimens, I have come to rather different conclusions as to the best mode of arranging the species of the genus in natural order, I venture to put forward my views on this subject, and at the same time to point out the characters of what I believe to be a new and interesting member of the group.



1. Head of *C. guianensis*. 2. Do. *C. altirostris*. 3. Do. *C. nigrirostris*.

In different genera of birds, as is notorious, we find it convenient to seize upon various points of structure as the best guide to their arrangement. In *Cyclorhis* the form and colour of the short, compressed, Shrike-like bill appeared to me to be the most salient point. In the typical species allied to *C. guianensis* (fig. 1), and in six other nearly allied forms, the bill presents a nearly uniform appearance, and is further remarkable in carrying a large dark plumbeous spot at the base of the lower mandible. In a seventh species the bill is similar in structure, but there is no dark mark at the base of the mandible. In *Cyclorhis altirostris* (fig. 2) the structural features are carried to a greater extreme, the bill being still shorter and the upper mandible still more elevated. In *C. nigrirostris*, on the other hand (fig. 3), we find a less typical kind of beak, this organ being much less elevated, not so much compressed, and longer in proportion to its size.

I would therefore propose to arrange the ten species of *Cyclorhis* known to me as follows:—

- A. Bill moderately thickened; upper mandible about one third thicker in vertical dimensions than the lower.
 - a. Plumbeous spot at the base of the lower mandible.
 - a'. Belly yellow (1) *flaviventris*, p. 322.
 - b'. Belly white or pale cinereous.
 - a''. Breast clear yellow.
 - a'''. Crown greyish (2) *flavipectus*, p. 322.
 - b'''. Crown green, like the back :
 - { occiput green (3) *virenticeps*, p. 322.
 - { occiput reddish (4) *contrerasi*, p. 322.
 - b''. Breast greenish yellow :
 - { belly greyish (5) *guianensis*, p. 323.
 - { belly white (6) *albiventris*, p. 323.
 - b. No plumbeous spot on mandible; bill uniform reddish (7) *ochrocephala*, p. 323.
- B. Bill much thickened; upper mandible nearly twice as thick as lower; plumbeous spot on lower mandible (8) *altirostris*, p. 323.

C. Bill thinner, more subulate; upper mandible not nearly so much elevated:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| { | bill black, spot at base of lower | |
| | mandible rufous | (9) <i>nigrirostris</i> , p. 324. |
| | whole bill black | (10) <i>atrirostris</i> , p. 324. |

I will now offer a few remarks on these ten species.

1. CYCLORHIS FLAVIVENTRIS, Lafr.

On this species consult Salv. et Godm. Biol. C.-Am., Aves, i. p. 211. The plumbeous bill-spot is, in some specimens, almost obsolete. This form extends over South Mexico, Yucatan, Guatemala, and Honduras. How far the recently described *C. insularis* (Ridgw. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. iii. p. 22), from the island of Cozumel, is different, it is impossible to say in the absence of specimens. I should also be disposed to question the necessity of separating *C. flaviventris yucatanensis*, Ridgw. (Pr. U.S. N. M. 1886, p. 519).

2. CYCLORHIS FLAVIPECTUS, Scl.

Descending the Central-American peninsula southwards, we find in Costa Rica and Veragua a second form of *Cyclorhis* with the belly more or less of an ochraceous white. This has been designated *C. subflavescens*; but we agree with the authors of the Biol. Centr.-Am. in considering that it cannot be kept apart from *C. flavipectus* of Colombia, Venezuela, and Trinidad. It may, perhaps, be treated as a subspecies (*C. flavipectus subflavescens*) by those who adopt trinomials. This seems also to have been Baird's view (Rev. Am. B. p. 388).

3. CYCLORHIS VIRENTICEPS, Scl.

The green crown and well-marked dark chestnut superciliaries at once distinguish this species of Western Ecuador.

4. CYCLORHIS CONTRERASI, Tacz. P. Z. S. 1879, p. 224, pl. xxi.

This form of Western Peru, of which there is now a single specimen in the National Collection, comes very near the last, but has the dark chestnut superciliaries widened and extended over nearly the whole summit of the head.

5. *CYCLORHIS GUIANENSIS* (Gm.).

All the specimens of *Cyclorhis* I have seen from Guiana, Cayenne, and Upper and Lower Amazonia may be referred to *C. guianensis*, which has a grey belly, a greenish-yellow throat, and narrow red superciliaries.

6. *CYCLORHIS ALBIVENTRIS*, Sel.

This form, which is prevalent in S.E. Brazil from Pernambuco to Bahia, comes in some cases, it must be admitted, very near to *C. guianensis*, but is recognizable by its white belly and the rufescent tinge of the crown, which in typical *C. guianensis* is of a pure grey. *C. cearensis*, Baird, Rev. A. B. p. 391, is stated to have a "decided buff tinge" on the belly, and cannot therefore, I think, be the same as *C. albiventris*, as Graf v. Berlepsch seems to regard it.

7. *CYCLORHIS OCHROCEPHALA*, Tsch.

Tschudi's types of this form, which is at once distinguishable from the six previously noticed by the uniform reddish bill, without any trace of the dark plumbeous spot on the lower mandible, were from South Brazil, where the species is found in the provinces of Rio, San Paulo, and Rio Grande do Sul (*cf.* v. Berlepsch, Zeitschr. f. d. g. Orn. 1885, p. 116). After examining the series now in the British Museum, I have come to the conclusion that the Argentine species hitherto usually called (but erroneously, I believe) *C. viridis*, may be safely referred to it also. Some of the Argentine specimens can barely be distinguished from skins from Rio, though, as a general rule, the southern bird has a brighter yellow on the breast and not so much rufous tinge on the crown. *C. wiedi* of Pelzeln (Orn. Bras. p. 74), of Parana, is also barely separable.

8. *CYCLORHIS ALTIROSTRIS*, Salv. Ibis, 1880, p. 382.

As has been pointed out by Graf v. Berlepsch (Zeitschr. f. d. g. Orn. 1885, p. 116), this is probably the *Habia verde* of Azores, and, if so, ought to have the name "*viridis*" of Vieillot. But, as this is by no means certain, and a quite different species has been hitherto usually recognized

under that name, it is much better to retain for the present bird the appropriate designation which Mr. Salvin has applied to it.

Mr. White's specimens from the Argentine Republic (*C. viridis*, White, P. Z. S. 1882, p. 595) belong to this species.

9. *CYCLORHIS NIGRIROSTRIS*, Lafr.

Of this very distinct Colombian species there are examples in the British Museum from Bogotá and Antioquia (*Salmon*).

10. *CYCLORHIS ATRIROSTRIS*, sp. nov. (Plate X.)

Suprà lætè viridis, superciliis latis castanco mixtis et pileo reliquo hoc colore adumbrato : subtùs cinereus ; pectore et lateribus viridi tinctis : subalaribus et remigum paginâ interiore sulphureo-flavis : rostro toto nigro, pedibus obscurè carneis. Long. tota 6, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·5.

Hab. Æquatoria.

The single specimen of this bird in the British Museum, formerly in the collection of Messrs. Salvin and Godman, was obtained by Buckley in Ecuador. It is not quite mature, but appears to belong to a species closely allied to *C. nigrirostris*, and with the same form of bill, but without the light colour at the base of the lower mandible. The large and lengthened superciliaries also at once distinguish it from *C. nigrirostris*, in which they only extend just to the back of the eye.

XXXIV.—*Notes on a Collection of Birds from Kroonstad, in the Orange Free State.* By EDMOND SYMONDS. (Communicated by J. H. GURNEY.)

[MR. SYMONDS has sent me specimens of the birds to which his notes refer (except where the reverse is mentioned), and I have carefully identified them.—J. H. G.]

1. *HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS* (Daud.). Rufous-backed Bateleur Eagle.

There are always two or three pairs of these Eagles on a farm about six miles from Kroonstad, where there is thick bush ; they are very shy and difficult to get at ; the Boers say they do no harm to poultry or lambs.

